IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

b) judgment means for judging the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

c) packet generating means for generating the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of said judgment means, and transmitting the fixed length packet data,

wherein said packet generating means includes memory means for generating fixed length data~~, in which memory means is initialized~~ and initializing means for initializing said memory means by writing stuffing data ~~thereinto in advance~~ in said memory means, and said packet generating means generates the fixed length data by writing the variable length packet data into the initialized memory means in accordance with the packet length judged by said judgment means and reading out the data from said memory means, and said packet generating means generates the fixed length packet data [[to]] in which the stuffing data is ~~added~~ written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory means is shorter than a predetermined length.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

clock reference information generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data,

wherein said packet generating means transmits at least one fixed length packet data provided with the clock reference information generated by said clock reference information generating means within a predetermined time interval.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

program specific information generating means for generating program specific information indicative of a program specific of a packet to be transmitted,

wherein said packet generating means transmits at least one fixed length packet data provided with the program specific information generated by said program specific information generating means within the predetermined time interval.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs a plurality of types of variable length packet data.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said packet generating means transmits the fixed length packet data provided with the clock reference information, when no effective fixed length packet data is present.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said packet generating means transmits the fixed length packet data provided with the program specific information, when no effective fixed length packet data is present.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1, and the fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the clock reference information is Program Clock Reference (PCR) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the program specific information is Program Specific Information (PSI) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said packet generating means inserts a stuffing byte when the code length of the variable length packet data is less than the code length which can be inserted to the fixed length packet data.

12.-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) first generating means for generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

b) second generating means for generating and transmitting first fixed length packet data from the variable length packet data generated by said first generating means; and

c) generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data,

wherein said second generating means generates second fixed length packet data including the clock reference information and transmits the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and compulsorily transmits the second fixed length packet data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] if there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1, and the fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the clock reference information is Program Clock Reference (PCR) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

22. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) first generating means for generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

b) second generating means for generating and transmitting first fixed length packet data from the variable length packet data generated by said first generating means; and

c) generating means for generating program specific information indicative of a program specific of the first fixed length packet data,

wherein said second generating means generates second fixed length packet data including the program specific information and transmits the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and compulsorily transmits the

second fixed length packed data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] if there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the variable length packet data is Packetized Elementary Stream (PES) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1, and the fixed length packet data is Transport Stream (TS) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the program specific information is Program Specific Information (PSI) conforming to ISO/IEC 13818-1.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the information data is image data, and is encoded in conformity with ISO/IEC 13818-2.

26. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

judging the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

generating the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with the judgment result and transmitting the fixed length packet data,

wherein said generating step includes a step of initializing memory means for generating fixed length data, by writing stuffing data ~~thereinto~~ in said memory means in advance, said generating step generates the fixed length data by writing the variable length packet data into the initialized memory means in accordance with the packet length judged in said judging step and reading out the data from said memory means, and said generating step includes a step of generating the fixed length packet data [[to]] in which the stuffing data is ~~added~~ written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory means is shorter than a predetermined length.

27. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

generating and transmitting first fixed length packet data from the generated variable length packet data; and

generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data,

wherein the fixed length packet generating step includes a step of generating second fixed length packet data including the clock reference information and transmitting the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and a step of compulsorily transmitting the second fixed length packet data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] if there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

28. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

generating variable length packet data including encoded information data;

generating and transmitting first fixed length packet data from the generated variable length packet data; and

generating program specific information indicative of a program specific of the first fixed length packet data,

wherein said fixed length packet data generating step includes a step of generating second fixed length packet data including the program specific information, a step of transmitting the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and a step of compulsorily transmitting the second fixed length packet data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] <u>if</u> there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

29. (Original) A storage medium in which an information processing program according to claim 26 is stored and which can be read by a computer.

30. (Original) A storage medium in which an information processing program according to claim 27 is stored and which can be read by a computer.

31. (Original) A storage medium in which an information processing program according to claim 28 is stored and which can be read by a computer.

32. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) an input portion, which inputs variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data;

b) a judgment portion, which judges the packet length of the variable length packet data; and

c) a packet generating portion, which generates the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of said judgment portion, and transmits the fixed length packet data,

wherein said packet generating portion includes memory for generating fixed length data~~, in which the memory is initialized~~ and initializing means for initializing said memory by writing stuffing data ~~thereinto in advance~~ in said memory, and said packet generating portion generates the fixed length data by writing the variable length packet data into the initialized memory in accordance with the packet length judged by said judgment portion and reading out the data from said memory, and said packet generating portion generates the fixed length packet data [[to]] in which the stuffing data is ~~added~~ written, in case that the variable length packet data to be written into said memory is shorter than a predetermined length.

33. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) a first generating portion, which generates variable length packet data including encoded information data;

b) a second generating portion, which generates and transmits first fixed length packet data from the variable length packet data generated by said first generating portion; and

c) a generating portion, which generates clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data,

wherein said second generating portion generates second fixed length packet data including the clock reference information and transmits the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and compulsorily transmits the second fixed length packet data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] if there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

34. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a) a first generating portion, which generates variable length packet data including encoded information data;

b) a second generating portion, which generates and transmits first fixed length packet data from the variable length packet data generated by said first generating portion; and

c) a generating portion, which generates program specific information indicative of a program specific of the first fixed length packet data,

wherein said second generating portion generates second fixed length packet data including the program specific information and transmits the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and compulsorily transmits the second fixed length packed data regardless of the predetermined time interval [[when]] if there is no effective first fixed length packet data.